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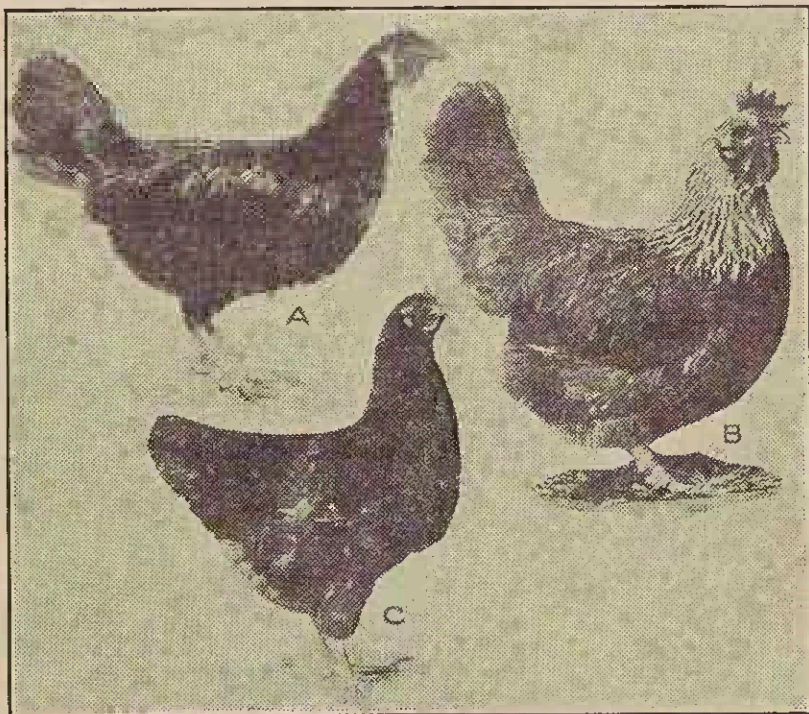
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## A BIRD IN THE HAND.

(Special Information Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.)

### WAR TIME POULTRY KEEPING.



Three Types of Poultry: (a) Rose Comb Minorca, An Egg Breed; (b) Single Comb Dorking, Meat Breed, and (c) Rhode Island Red, a Dual Purpose Breed. The Average Weight of Mature Hens of These Breeds Is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  Pounds, Showing That Weight Is Not Always An Indication of Breed Types.

### Save Feed and Increase Production.

#### Relation of Poultry Types to Production—Skillful Use of Stock Supplemented by Efficient Management Means More Meat and Eggs.

In wartimes economy and efficiency are the keynotes of poultry production. The poultry keeper must save feed and at the same time increase poultry production. It is not the high cost of feed alone, since America entered the war, that has led to more careful attention to the routine work of keeping poultry and to greater production and skill in feeding. The saving of money has been an incentive, but above and beyond that every poultry keeper realizes that getting better production from less feed is doing double duty in conservation and production.

The first result of the wartime conditions was to emphasize afresh and more effectively than ever the benefits of graded selection of breeding stock and severe culling of the young stock while growing. When this is practiced together with good poultry management the feed bill is reduced but the production of eggs is maintained and even increased in some cases. The policy of using only breeders of the very best type reduces to the lowest practical point the waste of feeding inferior young stock.

TABLE I.—List of Well-Known Breeds Grouped According to General Type, with Standard Weights.

Breed.	Weights in Pounds.			
	Cock	Cockerel	Hen	Pullet
<i>Egg Type.</i>				
Leghorn .....	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Ancona .....	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Andalusian .....	6*	5	5	4
Minorca (other than S. C.) .....				
Black) .....	8	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Minorca, S.C., B.L. ....	9	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
<i>Dual Purpose Type.</i>				
Dominique .....	7	6	5	4
R. I. Red .....	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	5
Wyandottes .....	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Sussex .....	9	$7\frac{1}{2}$	7	6
Buckeye .....	9	8	7	6
Plymouth Rock....	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	8
Orpington .....	10	$8\frac{1}{2}$	8	7
<i>Meat Type.</i>				
Dorking, White....	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	6	5
Dorking, S. G.....	8	7	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Cornish .....	10	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	6
Langshan .....	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Cochin .....	11	9	$8\frac{1}{2}$	7
Brahma, Lt.....	12	10	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8

If the producers of eggs and poultry for the table are doing their utmost to increase production of meat and eggs, the easiest, shortest and surest way is through general use of the most productive types, that is, by the use on the part of every poultry keeper of the most productive types of his stock. It is not meant that there should be a wholesale replacement of ordinary stock by stock or strains celebrated for extreme high production. In some cases this may be done to advantage, but with the majority of poultry keepers immediate gain in production must be made by good use of such stock as they have.

#### GET UNDERSTANDING OF TYPE.

The first step toward the increase of poultry products—whether meat or eggs—through the use of the types best suited to production, is to get a correct understanding of type. Three distinct types are recognized—the egg type, the meat type and the dual purpose or general purpose type, which is commonly considered as an intermediate of the other two, though in reality it is the primary type of which the others are modifications.

Small size and great activity are commonly supposed to be the characteristics of egg type. Large size and an indolent temperament are supposed to be characteristics of the meat type, and medium size without either marked energy or great indolence are supposed to be the characteristics of the mediocre dual-purpose type. While this, in a general way, is true, there

are exceptions, as can be noted in the accompanying tables. These tables show that egg production and meat production are not entirely a simple matter of size, weight and temperament. Table No. 1 is a list of well-known standard breeds grouped according to their general type. Table No. 2 is a list of the same breeds arranged in the order of their weight, beginning with the smallest.

There is a wide range of individual differences among the standard breeds, some strains of a particular breed being better suited for egg production than meat, and vice versa.

Good physical development, vitality, constitutional vigor, a good digestive system, docility, and ruggedness and stability of function in the reproductive organs are the distinguishing characters and traits of dependable good layers.

The existence of all these, however, is not enough to insure good laying. There must, of course, be reasonably good management, even if the keeper has not special skill. But if with these qualities which make for continual laying there exists a tendency to put on fat whenever laying is interrupted, only unremitting skillful management to keep a hen in good laying condition will make her a first-class egg producer.

The egg type or laying type of hen, in any breed, is the hen that with the qualities that make for good egg production has no quality which is an obstacle to continual laying. The meat type is not the converse of the egg type, even though the hen that is not a good layer is fit only for meat.

#### MEAT TYPE GROWS RAPIDLY.

The meat type, in all kinds of poultry, is the type that grows rapidly and at maturity carries abundant flesh, especially where the preferred parts of the meat are produced. The most desirable meat type is rather fine in bone, with the frame well knit but not too compact. Under any kind of good management a hen of this type that is in normal condition will be a good layer. She may not lay any better than a hen not quite so well fleshed, but she ought to lay just as well, and when the time comes to make meat of her she makes more and better meat, and as a breeder she naturally tends to reproduce offspring that will make more and better meat.

TABLE II.—List of Breeds in Table I Arranged According to Standard Weight, Egg Type Breeds in Ordinary Print, Dual Purpose Breeds in Italics, Meat Type Breeds in Heavy Type.

Breed.	Weights in Pounds.			
	Cock	Cockerel	Hen	Pullet
Leghorn .....	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Ancona .....	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Andalusian .....	6	5	5	4
Dominique .....	7	6	5	4
Dorking, S. C.....	8	7	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Minorca* .....	8	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
R. I. Red .....	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	5
Wyandotte .....	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Buckeye .....	9	8	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
Sussex .....	9	$7\frac{1}{2}$	7	6
Minorca, S.C., B.L. ....	9	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Plymouth Rock....	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	6
Langshan .....	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Cornish D and W .....	10	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$	6
Orpington .....	10	$8\frac{1}{2}$	8	7
Cochin .....	11	9	$8\frac{1}{2}$	7
Brahma, Lt.....	12	10	$9\frac{1}{2}$	8

\*Other than S. C. Black.

Such hens are in reality of the dual purpose type, no matter what their size or breed. They are equally valuable for eggs and meat. That is the kind of stock that will contribute most to the big increase in poultry that is wanted. It is the dual-purpose type of every breed—a type that exists in every breed, and can easily be made the prevalent type without detriment to any breed, and to the benefit of every breed—that has suffered from neglect.